GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1493
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
FOREIGN COLLABORATION FOR COAL MINING
Acharia Shri Basudeb;Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has contemplated to tie-up with foreign countries for underground mining in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the foreign mining companies are likely to get the Government's approval to acquire 49 per cent stake in coal mines in the country; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (c): Presently there is no tie up with foreign countries for any specific project. However, Coal India Limited is in dialogue with Russia, China and Australia for underground Mine development including development in the field of High Wall Mining, Coal Bed Methane, Underground Coal Gasification, development of Steep Mines, Safety of underground mines including roof bolting techniques and resin capsule methodology. Some subsidiary companies Eastern Coalfields Limited, Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Central Coalfields Limited are exploring options to have foreign collaboration for increasing production / development of underground mines.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise in view of reply at (d) above.